

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O R 161500Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2606
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1171

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, CASC
SUBJECT: DISPUTE BETWEEN OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM AND
LIBYAN GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 1163

1. AMCITS CORCORAN AND AYLOR MENTIONED REFTTEL
DISCUSSED THEIR SITUATION FURTHER WITH CONOFF ON
OCTOBER 16. AT PREVIOUS SESSION THEY CLAIMED
THEY HAD GONE TO AIRPORT ON THEIR OWN, ACTING ON
BEHALF OF FELLOW FIELD WORKERS, TO TEST DEPARTURE
PROCEDURES. NOW THEY READILY ADMITTED COMPANY
HAD ASKED THEM TO ATTEMPT DEPARTURE AND THAT THEY
WERE THE TWO AMERICANS VOLUNTEERING IN RESPONSE TO
TELEX MENTIONED PARA 1 TRIPOLI 1159.

2. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT LARG AND OXY HAD AGREE
TO LIST OF 14 FIELD WORKERS ALLOWED TO DEPART ON
FIELD BREAK. AFTER SEVERAL ON LIST HAD
DEPARTED LIBYA, ADDITIONAL OXY PERSONNEL, BOTH FIELD
AND TRIPOLI-BASED, SOME ACTING ON COMPANY INSTRUC-
TIONS AND OTHERS ON THEIR OWN, HAD ATTEMPTED DEPART
AND SEVERAL HAD SUCCEEDED. WHEN LARG DISCOVERED
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THIS, ORDER WAS GIVEN NOT ALLOW REMAINDER OF AGREE

LIST OF 14 TO DEPART. AT THAT POINT CORCORAN AND AYLOR WERE ASKED TO ATTEMPT DEPARTURE AND TOLD TO REPORT TO EMBASSY IF THEY DID NOT SUCCEED.

3. ACCORDING TO THEM, PROCEDURES ARE NOW BEING WORKED OUT TO RESTORE THE ROTATION AGREEMENT. AS SOON AS PASSPORTS HAVE BEEN SEEN VERIFYING RETURN OF ADDITIONAL FIELD WORKERS, CORRESPONDING NUMBER WILL BE AGAIN ALLOWED DEPART. COMPANY HAS PROMISED TO SEND TELEXES TO EMPLOYEES OUT OF COUNTRY ON FIELD BREAK TO RETURN ON SCHEDULE IN ORDER NOT TO DISRUPT THE ROTATION PROCEDURE.

4. CORCORAN AND AYLOR APPEAR INCREASINGLY DIS-TRUSTFUL OF COMPANY AND EVEN QUESTION WHETHER IT IS ACTUALLY SENDING THESE TELEXES. BOTH OF THEM FEEL THAT THEIR ATTEMPTED DEPARTURE WAS POORLY TIMED BY OCCIDENTAL, AND THAT THEY ARE BEING USED AS PAWNS MORE BY THE COMPANY THAN BY THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. THEY ARE STILL EAGER TO PRESENT THEIR STORY TO PETROLEUM OFFICIALS, AND HOPE SUCH A MEETING CAN BE ARRANGED SHORTLY. STEIN

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